

## Finding the Schwa

### Objective

- Students will identify the accented syllable
- Students will locate the ‘schwa’ in the unaccented syllable

### State the Objective

Tell students that today they will be finding the accented and unaccented syllables in 2 syllable words. Tell students they will also be able to identify the sounds for ‘schwa’.

### Warm up

Students will count the syllables in given words. Use a foam square to represent each syllable.

### I DO

Say the word – **apron** - Syllable stomp the word – Use a foam square for each syllable heard. Then, explain to students the ‘call your dog’ rule to find the accented syllable. The way you would call your dog, you hold out the syllable on which the accent is. Put a magnet on top of the accented syllable (the first syllable in this word) and remind them that SCHWA may be on the unaccented syllable.

Then write the ‘a’ beneath the first foam square and the ‘pron’ beneath the second. Study the unaccented syllable ‘pron’. Ask students to identify what kind of syllable it is. (Closed) Explain that in this word, the schwa sound is the short i sound. We don’t hear the short o in the syllable ‘pron’ because the schwa sound is not spelled the way it sounds.

Explain that in this word the schwa sounds like short i but it can also sound like short u. Refer to the vowel chart to show the location of the schwa sounds on the vowel chart.

REPEAT an “I do” with the word ‘**away**’.

### WE DO

Walk through the same steps with the words **given, bucket, pilot, ticket, about**

Say the word

Syllable Stomp the word

Put out foam squares

“Call your dog” – place a magnet above the accented syllable

Spell each syllable with the students

Discuss each syllable type

Find the schwa and identify how it sounds and how it’s spelled.

### YOU DO

Students repeat the steps independently with words **alarm, aside, pivot, distance, other, kitten, circus, dragon.**

### CONNECTED TEXT

Students will read a list of multi-syllabic words with the schwa and identify how schwa is spelled and how it sounds in the list of words.

**Alarm**  
**aside**  
**pivot**  
**distance**  
**other**  
**kitten**  
**circus**  
**dragon**  
**away**  
**given**  
**bucket**  
**pilot**  
**ticket**  
**about**

**Alarm**  
**aside**  
**pivot**  
**distance**  
**other**  
**kitten**  
**circus**  
**dragon**  
**away**  
**given**  
**bucket**  
**pilot**  
**ticket**  
**about**